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# FOOD AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR LIBERIA (FED)

**MONTHLY REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2012**



**SEPTEMBER 2012**

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## **FOOD AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT (FED) PROGRAM FOR LIBERIA**

**MONTHLY REPORT: SEPTEMBER 1 – 30, 2012**

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**COVER PHOTO:** Eggplant and bitter-ball harvest for sale at the FED Doumpa project site.

### **DISCLAIMER**

The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

## ACRONYMS

AEDE	Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics
AY	Advancing Youth
BRAC	Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee
BWI	Booker T. Washington Institute
DAI	Development Alternatives, Inc.
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ED	Enterprise Development
EDP	Enterprise Development Plan
EU	European Union
FACET	Fostering Agriculture Competitiveness Employing Information Communication Technologies
FED	Food and Enterprise Development
GBCC	Grand Bassa Community College
GEMS	Government and Economic Management Support
GIS	Geographic Information System
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IFC	International Finance Cooperation
IFDC	International, International Fertilizer Developmental Center
INGOs	International Non-Government Organizations
IQC	Indefinite Quantity Contract
IRP	International Resource Person
ISFM	Integrated Soil Fertility Management
IT	Internet Technology
LDHS	Liberia Demographic and Health Survey
L-MEP	Liberia Monitoring and Evaluation Program
LTTAs	Long Term Technical Assistants
MDF	Market Development Fund
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoCI	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
MoHSW	Ministry of Health Social Welfare
MSME	Medium, Small Medium Enterprise
NCCC	Nimba County Community College
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
PIDS	Performance Indicator Data System
NIC	National Investment Commission
PMP	Project management Plan
PPR	Peste Des Petits Ruminants
RFP	Request for Proposal
SME	Small Medium Enterprise
STTA	Short Term Technical Assistant
TAMIS	Technical and Administrative Management Information System
TVET	Technical Education and Vocational Training
UDP	Urea Deep Placement
UMU	United Methodist University
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VES	Vocational Education Specialist
VTNFES	Vocational Technical Non Formal Education Specialist

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**Geographic Reach of FED**

## Background

The Food and Enterprise Development (FED) Program for Liberia is a USAID-funded initiative that began in September 2011. Through implementing a Liberian strategy which incorporates women and youth, FED will help the government of Liberia and the country achieve food security — in terms of food availability, utilization, and accessibility — by building an indigenous incentive structure that assists a range of agricultural stakeholders to adopt commercial approaches.

This incentive structure will be built upon:

- Improved technology for productivity and profitability;
- Expanded and modernized input supply and extension systems;
- Commercial production, marketing, and processing;
- Enterprise Services; and
- Workforce Development.

FED's activities will work with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the private sector to link communities to agricultural inputs (including improved seeds), extension services, nutritious food products, processing services, market information, transportation, credit, and appropriate education, training, and enterprise services.

Over the life of the five-year FED program, expanded market linkages will lead to substantial income and job growth and major increases in the production, processing, marketing, and nutritional utilization of rice, cassava, vegetables, and goats in Bong, Lofa, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Montserrado, and Margibi counties. These counties are being targeted in the context of regional development corridors that foster intra- and inter-county commerce, simultaneously improving food availability and access for all Liberians.

FED's methodology is market-led, value chain-driven, continuously dedicated to indigenous capacity building, and specifically focused on benefiting Liberia's women and youth. FED's approach aims to be collaborative, catalytic, and driven by the goals and objectives of our partner clients. It will lead to increases in incomes for rural households, new employment opportunities for Liberians, increased access to food and improved household dietary diversity scores for food-insecure Liberians, and the adoption of improved inputs, farming practices, and technologies which boost agricultural productivity.

FED is implemented by seven partners including: Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI), Winrock International, International Fertilizer Developmental Center (IFDC), Samaritan's Purse, Louisiana University, The Cadmus Group, and the Center for Development and Population Activities.

## Summary

In September, FED kicked off its annual workplanning process. A number of meetings with FED's county offices, MoA, USAID, the private sector, and other FED partners were held to solicit feedback and begin to develop a programmatic road map for year 2. A meeting with over 60 FED partners took place on September 11, 2012 at the Corina Hotel in Monrovia. Presentations on all of FED's components were made and break out groups focusing on each of the 4 value chains convened. Feedback from the all-day workplanning session was incorporated into FED's draft year 2 workplan which was submitted to USAID. FED plans to finalize the year 2 workplan in the next week.

Activities are underway in Bong, Nimba, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Montserrado, and Lofa counties. This includes the monitoring of vegetables production demonstration sites at 13 locations in Margibi and Montserrado counties. Harvesting of selected crops also began in Montserrado and Margibi Counties at Kpor, Whorn, Air Town, and Yarnquellah demonstration sites. Crops harvested include collard greens, onions, peppers, and okra. In addition, 200kg of corn seed was distributed to the 13 groups for direct planting after the current rainy season vegetable harvest.

In Nimba County, Doumpa Agriculture Project continues the weekly harvest of vegetables (bitter balls, eggplants, and cabbage) and received US\$ 210.21 for September sales. Monitoring and field maintenance continue at the rice and cassava demonstration sites. Field monitoring, trainings and supervision continue at the rice and cassava demonstration sites in Lofa, Bong, and Grand Bassa Counties.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Land O'Lakes, and FED hosted a one-day National Livestock Consultative workshop on September 6, 2012, at the Corina Hotel, Sinkor, Monrovia. International partners at the event included USAID, European Union, BRAC Liberia, Samaritan Purse, FAO, CARE-Liberia, Vets without Border, German Agro Action, and IFAD among others. The objective of the technical meeting was to identify donor-funded interventions currently under implementation in the livestock sector and facilitate relationship building among participating organizations.

Treadle pump manufacturing training was conducted by FED's Metalwork Technician in Voinjama, with two enterprises – Mdamia Garage and the Sesay Metalwork Shop and manufacturing of forced-air vegetable dryers was also conducted at the Old Folk Workshop in Monrovia. These enterprises/metalwork shops will serve as producers of the new equipment and technologies that have been introduced by FED on the Liberian market for interested farmers.

Under the guidance of Peri-Urban Agriculture Specialist, Dermot Cassidy, work began in establishing a demonstration plot at the MoA training site in Kakata. This involved using a portion of land that is severely degraded and has severe soil losses due to sheet erosion.

A six-week follow-up mentorship on the Business Plan Development Workshop was completed with participants in collaboration with FED Consultant, Agatha Johnson. Fourteen SMEs from the mentorship workshop have now submitted their business plan to FED. The 14 submitted business plans are currently under review by the ED team for possible assistance utilizing the MDF. The business plan was submitted by a group head by a female, and 13 male headed groups.

A local service provider Subah Belleh has been hired to complete the profiling of approximately 900 – 1,000 stakeholders surveyed across six FED counties. The survey will start the second week in October.

FED launched ten-day training to transition management of FED's internal mobile data collection to the M&E/GIS coordinator. Three interns, including two women, have been included in the training to build their skill

sets in project management and technology in agriculture. Training components include project management, budget development, training of enumerators, electronic form design, data monitoring, technology platforms, and global resources. The training is being conducted by the FED ICT specialist MTTA, and includes presentations by Grameen Foundation, Episurveyor, and USAID LAUNCH.



## COMPONENT ONE: INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

### Project Planning

An increase in agriculture productivity for Year 2 developed during the reporting period. The increase in the agriculture productivity chart outlines all activities that will be undertaken to contribute to the Year 1 annual work plan.

### Task 1.3 Input Supply System Interventions

During the month of September 2012, planning activities for UDP, ISFM, and voucher programs took place with input supply chain actors in Monrovia, Lofa, Bong, and Nimba counties with two IFDC STTAs.

### Activity 1.3a: Improving Access to Quality Agro-inputs

*Farmer's capacity building:*

Two IFDC STTAs are engaged in ongoing training on “integrated soil fertility management” for farmers in Lofa, Bong, Nimba, and Grand Bassa counties. The training sessions also target FED extension staff, extension staff from the MoA, and a few farmers in the target communities. Two cassava demonstrations sites are targeted in each county and 75 cassava farmers (50 previously trained through FED, and 25 growing cassava in the community).

*Topics covered in the training session included:*

- *The notion of integrated soil fertility improvement (ISFM):* Ensures that soil nutrients are not depleted over time and nutrient restoration is undertaken through erosion control as some farms are established on steep slopes (the construction of ridges against the slope is more indicated), crop rotation with already cultivated leguminous crops (pea nuts or cow peas) to reduce continuous destruction of the forest and line planting to increase cassava yield.
- *Quality planting materials:* Healthy, disease free materials should be used to improve crop yield and sustainable production. This involves sound knowledge of cassava pest and diseases and crop management to reduce the incidence of identified pests and diseases.
- *Agro-chemicals and/or fertilizers:* Their use is highly limited when crop management and erosion control measures are adequately applied.
- *Production of extension materials:* FED and MoA extension staffs do not use extension materials conveying information on FED activities to the farmers. The issue will receive immediate attention to ensure that conflicting information is reduced and knowledge gaps are addressed.

The time schedule of the IFDC STTAs:

	Date	Activity	Constant
Arrival in Monrovia September 23			
Monrovia	September 24	Finalizing training schedule and logistics	Finalizing schedule
Trip to Zorzor District, Lofa County, September 26			
Training in Foyah District	September 26-27	Two sessions for farmers, and extension	Planning development of extension materials

		personnel (MoA and FED)	for FED and MoA extension personnel.
<b>Trip to Bong County September 27</b>			
Training in Warta and Welkamah, Bong County	September 28-29	Two sessions for farmers, and extension personnel (MoA and FED)	Meeting at Cuttington University with the Agriculture faculty to review curriculum and discuss internship programs with a focus on input supply activities (UDP, ISFM, and voucher).
<b>Trip to Nimba County September 30</b>			
Training in Doumpa and Ganta/Nimba counties	October 1-2	Two sessions for farmers, and extension personnel (MoA and FED)	Meeting at the community college to review curriculum and discuss internship program with focus on input supply activities (UDP, ISFM, and voucher).
<b>Trip to Grand Bassa County October 3</b>			
Training in Component 2 & 3/Grand Bassa County	October 4-5	Two sessions for farmers, and extension personnel (MoA and FED)	Meeting at the community college to review curriculum and discuss internship program with focus on input supply activities (UDP, ISFM, and voucher).
Back to Monrovia	October 6	Mission report and action plan for 2013	Mission report and action plan for 2013
<b>Debriefing</b>			

### **Task 1.5 Increased Productions and Profitability of Quality Rice**

During the month of September 2012, the FED rice officer monitored activities in Grand Bassa, Bong, Nimba, and Lofa counties.

Training in rice production activities continued at 27 sites, which included 23 lowland and 4 upland sites in Bong, Lofa, Nimba, and Grand Bassa counties. In those counties, with very few exceptions, transplanting has been completed and weeding has started. At most sites, the availability of water is not an issue, nor is insects and diseases, as the rainy season begins to come to an end. Birds have posed an issue in some locations. The rotary weeder, a technology popular in some Asian rice producing countries and Madagascar, was demonstrated in all four counties, eliciting positive farmer reactions as they recognized the potential for this technology to speed up weeding if straight-row planting is conducted.

Rice yields appear promising based on observation, although in some cases, poor water management has reduced their potential. The rice harvest will begin in late October or early November, at which time yields will be measured with the support of the FED M&E team. A total of 293 women and 398 men were beneficiaries of the rice value chain.

### **Task 1.6 Increased Productions and Profitability of Quality Cassava**

Training in cassava production continued, weeding was carried out, and dead plants were replaced. Integrated soil management was demonstrated at selected sites in Bong, Lofa, Nimba, and Grand Bassa counties.

### **Task 1.7 Peri-urban Vegetable Production**

The monitoring of vegetable production demonstration sites continued at 13 locations in Margibi and Montserrado counties. Harvesting of selected crops began in Kpor, Whorn, Air Town, and Yarnquellah, where farmers began picking collard greens, onions, peppers, and okra. In addition, 200 kg of corn seed was distributed to the 13 groups for direct planting after the current rainy season vegetable harvest.

Under the guidance of Peri-Urban Agriculture Specialist, Dermot Cassidy, work began in establishing a demonstration plot at the MoA training site in Kakata. This involved using a portion of land that is severely degraded and has severe soil losses due to sheet erosion. The following were the results of the practice:

- How to find and mark out contours.
- Soil erosion control using vetiver grass.
- Alley cropping with moringa.
- How to make beds and ridges that curve with contours.
- Use of cover crops in soil rehabilitation (the site has severe problems with soil borne diseases).
- Demonstrations in the use of biochar in compost.
- Open soil nursery for vetiver multiplication.

The site will be used for practical training of FED extension staff, MoA extension agents, and lead farmers in soil and land rehabilitation as well as a source of seed and plant material for vetiver and cover crops.

The first phase of seedling production training which focused on nursery establishment, started in August, and ended in mid-September. This included the construction and orientation of elevated nurseries, formulation of high-quality soil composition (compost and top soil mixed with charcoal from the sites of former charcoal kilns), proper plant spacing and seed depth, and instruction in watering, weeding, and the importance of publicity.

The second phase of the seedling production training began the week of September 17. It focused on plant care, seedling thinning, construction of the second elevated nursery for the planting of thinned plants, keeping the area around the seedling beds clear of brush, wrapping the seedlings in edo leaves for sale, and publicity (door-to-door dissemination of information, signs, and radio). With only a few exceptions, the seedlings under production at the end of September appeared to be very healthy (photos of unhealthy plants have been sent to FED for diagnosis).

Neighboring farmers who have learned about the local production of seedlings have been inquiring about the availability of seedlings for sale. One order for 1,500 seedlings has been placed with Peter Kamara, one of the seedling producer trainees in Margibi County. Kamara will supply another 1,000 seedlings, while Producer Trainee, James Winnie, will supply the remaining 1,500 seedlings. Producer trainees in the same county were

encouraged to exchange phone numbers, in order to be in contact in regard to large orders which cannot be met with just one supplier.

Lessons learned in recent months from the work on the peri-urban agriculture value chain included the importance of good seed, respect for the agricultural calendar, good soil management, and the use of pesticides as needed, based on scouting.

Trainings were also conducted in:

- Treadle pump manufacturing with two enterprises in Voinjama: M dama Garage and the Sesay Metalwork Shop.
- Manufacturing of forced-air vegetable dryers at the Old Folk Workshop in Monrovia.

A total of 345 vegetable production trainees, 124 women, and 146 men, participated in peri-urban agriculture. In addition, there men engaged with treadle pump manufacturing, with another nine in the process of being trained in vegetable dryer manufacturing. A total of two women and 15 men, received training in seedling production.

The Agriculture Productivity team also held a series of meetings with FED staff to plan for the arrival of an STTA engineer to pilot a steam engine and also an STTA to help develop other agriculture mechanization tools like a portable cassava grater. FED's MDF team is working on a FPPO to bring the steam engine and engineer to Monrovia and a Winrock STTA has been approved by USAID to support the development of the other agriculture technologies.

### **Doumpa Community Agriculture Project**

The Doumpa Community Agriculture project continued its 8-month intensive agriculture productive and profitability initiative in Doumpa Town, Wee Clan, Wee-Gbeh-yi-Mahn District, Nimba County, Liberia. The harvest season for vegetables started on August 20, 2012, and is expected to last for three months. In September, a total of USD \$210.21 was received from the sale of vegetables.

The following activities are currently on going at the FED Doumpa project site

#### **Lowland**

- Bird scaring on 2.232 ha.
- General maintenance of the paddy field.
- Water management on 2.232 ha.
- 25 plots of paddy fields are in milky stage.
- 31 plots are flowering.

#### **Vegetable**

- General maintenance of the field.
- Weekly harvest of assorted vegetables.
- Harvest conducted from September 3-25, 2012

#### **Types of crops:**

- Bitter balls
- Eggplants

#### **Quantity harvested:**

18 bags  
14.25 bags

- Micro carbon 8 bags
- Cabbage 7.5 bags

**TOTAL: 47.75 bags**

**Quantity of bags harvested to date:**

- August 2012: 25 bags, plus 42 bulbs
- September 3 – 25, 2012: 47.75 bags

Total bags harvested (assorted) 72.75 bags, plus 42 bulbs

Total sales of produce September 3 – 25, 2012: USD \$210.21

Pervious sales in August 2012: USD \$130

**TOTAL August and September 2012: USD \$340.21**



**Rice field in Doupma**



**Sorting of harvested vegetables for sale**

### **Task: 1.8 Goat Interventions**

The Regional Livestock Consultative Meeting was organized with the MoA on September 6, 2012. The purpose of the meeting was to compile all current livestock related interventions and those that are planned for the sector.

*In September 2012, achievements included:*

- Strengthening of local capacity to produce vegetables, rice, and cassava through producer trainings.
- Increasing capacity to supply productive irrigation equipment to small farmers through metal workshop trainings.
- Increasing capacity to supply productive vegetable processing equipment to processors through metal workshop trainings.
- Preliminary assessment by the peri-urban agriculture specialist of the rainy season crop, determining that key constraints can be effectively addressed at a low-cost and relatively easily.
- Beginning of the rehabilitation of the Kakata/MoA site.

- First major order for vegetable seedlings produced by FED-trained producers.

#### *Challenges and related remedies included:*

- Heavy rainfall, low soil fertility, low-quality exotic seed obtained from importers and international NGOs and insects that have reduced vegetable yields. Recommended remedy included timely planting, improved soil management, procurement of good quality local seed, and selective pesticide use.
- *Water management for rice*. Recommended remedy included improved layouts and infrastructure (leveling, bunds, and weirs)
- *Reducing labor constraints to rice production*. Recommended remedy included introduction of tillage services and low-cost rotary weeders, both to be paid for in full by farmers or farmer groups.
- *Sustainable training by FED staff*: Recommended remedy included training only those who are prepared to invest sufficiently in the training and strengthening the best performers through mentoring, and focusing on complementary training and promotional support.

#### **Component Achievements and Successes:**

There were a number of ongoing activities during September 2012, but few that were actually completed within the month.

- Peri-urban Agriculture: A preliminary assessment of rainy season work was conducted. Seedling production training was almost complete, but had not been completed by the end of September.
- Rice: Transplanting was completed with the exception of one site in Grand Bassa County. Weeding is still in progress, as well as weeder use demonstrations and training.
- Cassava: Weeding is still in progress.
- Goats: The 2012 National Peste des Pestits Ruminants (PPR) vaccination campaign was launched on September 5, 2012, and remains ongoing.

#### **Projected Plans for October:**

With the start of FED's Year 2, a number of significant activities will be launched, including the following:

- Completion of harvesting and yield measurements.
- Identification of NGO partners, new producer groups, and new staff.
- Completion of dryer fabrication training.

Main rice value chain activities will include:

- Completion of most of the crop harvesting.
- Identification of NGO partners and new producer groups.
- Hiring of local water management professionals to organize and oversee the laying out of lowland schemes and construction of infrastructure by farmer groups headed by lead farmers.

Main cassava value chain activities will include:

- Replacement of dead plants.
- Application of integrated soil management practices.
- Incorporation of soy flour as soil enrichment.



## **COMPONENT TWO: STIMULATE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE**

During the month of September, the ED team accomplished the following activities:

### **Activity 2.3.A.i Profile Commercial Buyers and Activity, 2.3.A.ii.a – Profile and Select Lead Producers, FBOs, and Enterprises**

Subah Belleh, a local service provider, was been hired to complete the profiling of approximately 900 – 1,000 stakeholders surveyed across the six FED counties. The survey will start the second week in October.

### **Activity 2.3.A.ii.e – Targeted Technical Support**

During the month of September 2012, a follow up of a six-week mentorship on the Business Plan Development Workshop was completed with participants in collaboration with FED Consultant, Agatha Johnson. Fourteen SMEs from the mentorship workshop have now submitted their business plan to FED. The 14 submitted business plans are currently under review by the ED team for possible assistance utilizing the MDF. Of the business plans that were submitted, one was female headed, and 13 were male headed groups.

The MDF for the AEDE and Chevron New Generational Women, located in Cooper's Town, Upper Clay Ashland, engaged in pepper and cassava, has been approved to provide technical and business training, over a one-year period, in collaboration with FED support.

Upon the release of the IQC RFP, the bidder's conference was held to find local service providers for the various training modules required by FED. Qualified bidders were asked to make small presentations and answer final questions concerning the IQC RFP. Finally, the IQC contracts were signed and four IQC holders were hired, including Educare, Rights and Rice Foundation, AEDE, and Pace Management to conduct basic agri-business skills training for rural groups, basic agri-business skills training for SMEs, as well as a farmer's association.

ED assistants were also hired, orientated, and deployed in their respective county of assignment. They include Jonathan Jones, Grand Bassa County, Watson Yeanue, Nimba County, Allen Paulono, Lofa County, and Abednego Mehn, Bong County. The ED assistants are providing extension support to the ED team in Monrovia by coordinating and implementing all targeted technical support for FED beneficiaries within the counties.

The FED ED specialist met with a team from NIC including, Tianna W. Sherman, Kessely, investment generation consultant, Saye Dolo, finance leasing officer, and J. Jeffrey Chesson, marketing officer in charge. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the ED team, discuss FED's activities, and follow up on initiatives on developing leasing products for the agriculture sector. NIC suggested information should be provided from producer groups on what equipment they are interested in leasing and on their purchasing power for leasing and renting. This information will be useful in attracting investors to set up leasing companies. FED added these questions to the stakeholder survey that will be conducted in October.

In collaboration with the AY/USAID project, an assessment was conducted in Bong, Nimba, Lofa, and Grand Bassa counties by the AY and ED team. During the assessment, 24 FED farmers were identified and encouraged to participate in the pre-testing of AY literacy classes. Pre-testing was done in September and literacy classes are anticipated to start in October. Additionally, the ED team conducted intervention assessments with current FED farmer groups and SMEs. These assessments will be used to design intervention plans (training, cost-sharing, and expert assistance utilizing MDF funds) for FED's beneficiaries. A total of 20 farmers were identified, one male, and 19 females.

A training assessment was conducted with 46 groups within four of FED's operating counties including Bong, Nimba, Lofa, and Grand Bassa. Currently, in collaboration with the county team, a training plan is being put together for the first set of groups to be trained in the area of organizational strengthening.

The ED specialist met with the ACIDI/VOCA LAUNCH project to discuss how the ED team could collaborate with them by using the Farming as a Business training modules. The outcome from the meeting indicates that there is a possibility for collaboration.

From September 18 - 22, 2012, the ED team traveled to Grand Bassa County to follow up on beneficiaries from the ED pilot training to assess the status on their business registration. Currently, some are completing fundraising, while others are in the process of registering their business.

The evaluation of business plans and applications in response to the Enterprise Development Expression of Interest was released in order to solicit agri-business enterprises to apply and become involved in any of FED's four value chains. Currently, an additional 15 concept notes and applications are being reviewed for MDF assistance funding.

The FED Business Plan Competition for Youth Call was published in various newspapers on university campuses and at the county offices for qualified applicants.

### **Activity 2.3.B.vi – Increase Enterprise Registration and Local Government Engagement**

During the implementation of the EDP pilot training sessions, FED participants shared their perceptions of the business and association registration process, which indicated there is a lot of misinformation and misunderstanding about the process and costs for registering. Therefore, FED is partnering with the MSME of the MoCI on a 90-day radio and mobile outreach program in order to disseminate information in the four counties. The proposed project will include radio jingles in six local vernaculars and English, flyers, sign boards for MoCI satellite and Monrovia registration offices, and town hall meetings. This process will take place the first or second week in November.



**Lettuce grown on Sangay Farm.**

### **Future Activities for October**

- Training and mentorship through organizational development with FED producer groups in the counties.
- A youth business plan competition.
- MoCI outreach through scheduled radio announcement and flyers.
- Completion of the AEDE/Chevron/New Generational Women baseline survey.



## **Task 2.4 Use of ICTs in Stimulating Liberian Agri-Business**

### *Mobile Data Collection Training*

FED launched a ten-day training to transition management of FED's internal mobile data collection to the M&E/GIS coordinator. Three interns, including two women, have been included in the training to build their skill sets in project management and technology in agriculture. Training components include project management, budget development, training of enumerators, electronic form design, data monitoring, technology platforms, and global resources. The training is being conducted by the FED ICT specialist MTTA, and includes presentations by Grameen Foundation, Episurveyor, and USAID LAUNCH.

### *Mobile Money Workshop*

FED hosted a mobile money workshop and registration drive to familiarize FED staff with Lonestar's mobile money product. The workshop was designed by the FED ICT specialist, and featured Samelia Dempster-Tweh, mobile money manager at Lonestar. The workshop was held to 1) provide a strategic relationship between Lonestar and FED and 2) to expand FED staff's knowledge of how mobile money can be used in agriculture. This workshop lays the ground for future mobile money activities, including two proposed workshops with FED partners in Year 2. Workshops are also planned to be held in the county offices by the end of 2012.

### *Demonstration Plot Measurement Status*

Data collected on completed plot measurements of demonstration sites included hectares of land under improved management practices, varieties of crops, GPS locations, plot size, and community group contact information. This information will be used by M&E to feed in to "hectares of land under improved management practices" and by FED staff as a management tool for monitoring demonstration site progress. Guides on GPS use developed under this initiative will be used for future FED and MoA extension training. The management of this initiative was by the FED ICT specialist MTTA in conjunction with the GIS/M&E officer.

### *Geospatial Data*

FED extension officers and M&E agents' collected GPS points for all FED demonstration sites, enabling FED to create a geospatial database for future mapping and analysis.

### *Partner/Potential Resource Meetings*

A number of information gathering meetings for potential Year 2 activities were held between the FED ICT specialist MTTA and technology organizations and experts.

- a. A video workshop concept was explored with the USAID FACET project.
- b. A market information systems workshop concept was explored with Judy Payne, e-Business advisor, E3/E&I/ICT and ICT advisor for EG/AG, AFR/SD/EGEA, and Jill Shemin, associate ICT advisor, USAID to align with their December trip to Liberia.
- c. FED connected with CARE to discuss their recent trip to Nairobi, Kenya to attend the IFDC conference on market information systems. FED will attend the stakeholder meeting on September 28.
- d. Grameen Foundation presented on their new mobile data collection application that has been geared toward agricultural extension.

### *FED Work Plan Year 2*

The ICT specialist organized and presented the cross-cutting components at the partners meeting and participated in the creation of the Year 2 ICT strategy.

### *Market Profiling*

In conjunction with the component one lead, the ICT specialist assessed applicants to the RFP for the market profiling survey and the potential to include GPS and/or mobiles for data collection. It was decided that mobiles for the entire survey was not feasible due to the investment in training time it would require, but that a GPS application would be used on FED phones by the enumerators.

## COMPONENT THREE: BUILD LOCAL HUMAN CAPACITY

### Task 3.1 Creating Centers of Excellence

#### *Key Achievements:*

On September 5, 2012, the VES and the Vice President of the Federation of Cooperative of Liberia, James Cooper, held a meeting to discuss the possibility of collaboration between FED and the Federation. The Federation would like FED to engage the cooperative societies with its interventions in the various counties of operations.

On September 6, 2012, Matthew Curtis, FED's STTA soil scientist, and the VES went to Harrisburg to collect samples of rock tested for rock phosphate. The samples are now with the Boima Engineering Soil Lab for further testing.



*BWI Instructors Receiving Vocational Student Leadership Training*

*Curriculum Development Training:* On September 6, 2012, the BWI Agriculture Department HOD, Jacob Swee, led a workshop on curriculum development, using his own course on compost making, which follows the ECOWAS TVET curriculum model. This will serve as the model for the post-secondary National Agricultural Diploma Curriculum.

*Leadership Training:* On September 7, six instructors of the BWI Agriculture Department, along with an instructor from the Department of Electricity, met in the BWI-FED office for a day of instruction. This workshop signified the first day of a five-day workshop which introduced the student leadership organization.

On September 7, 2012, the VTNFES and VES held a meeting with Yonto B. Kesselly, assistant minister of education for the Bureau of Vocational Education, Science, and Technology, and Saku Dukuly, vocational education specialist of the bureau, to discuss the way forward for the completion of the National Agriculture Curriculum for the TVET schools. During the meeting, the minister expressed the willingness of his bureau to complete the National Agriculture Curriculum, although they lack the funds to do it. The bureau is seeking FED's assistance in completing the process.

On September 17, 2012, a FED team visited Kakata, Gbarnga, Ganta, Sanniquellie, and Buchanan to access the progress of the following:

*The internet connection at BWI:* On September 26, the internet was installed at BWI, however, it is running on a generator, which limits student and instructors access. There is a need to supplement the fuel needed to provide internet when students and instructors are not in class and need access. Additionally, during the visit, the BWI Department of Agriculture was shown best practices in vegetable production by FED staff, on 400 square meters of depleted land designated for this purpose.

*The opening of the Nimba County Community College (NCCC):* FED staff met with the head of the NCCC agriculture department, visited the agriculture farm where the soy flour is stored, and met with 400 students, 245 males and 155 females, to introduce them to the FED program.

*The construction work of the Bong County Technical College:* Construction on the building appears to currently be halted.

*The opening of the agriculture department of the Grand Bassa County Community College (GBCCC):* On September 20, 2012, the VEW and VTNFES traveled to Buchanan to assess the progress of the Department of Agriculture of the GBCC. Discussion during the meeting with the GBCCC Vice President for Academic Affairs, Zachariah Gaye, Head of the Agriculture Department, Morris Zorbah, Administrator of GBCCC, Emmanuel Tokpah, and FED staff, included agreement by the board that agriculture will be included as one of the departments of the college, and will be taught on a 50% theory and 50% practical basis.

## **INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

### *Purpose of the Program:*

The purpose of FED's internship program is to create the opportunity for senior students, graduating seniors, and recent graduates with interest in the agriculture and business sectors to put their classroom learning into practice. Students will also have the opportunity to gain hands-on practical knowledge and experience as well as the required technical skills for the labor market. The overall project goal is to build local human capacity of Liberian youth.

### *Monitoring of Interns*

Currently, the internship program is in the training and monitoring phase. A preliminary monitoring exercise has been conducted with interns at their various sites. Another phase of the monitoring exercise is scheduled to begin mid-cycle of the internship period. This will be a joint monitoring process with universities and technical schools. The monitoring phase is also an opportunity to address challenges, conduct performance reviews, and re-strategize the program.

### *Training Workshops for Interns*

A two-day strategic training workshop is scheduled for October 16-17, 2012, in Monrovia, and on October 23-24, 2012, at the county level. These workshops will be geared toward enhancing the capacity of interns on various marketable job skills, i.e., project management, report writing, and work planning. These additional skill sets will be useful when interns are competing on the job market.

### *In September the internship program achieved the following:*

- Successfully conducted the first monitoring exercise for the internship program, which showed the program is meeting its objectives, and interns are receiving practical experience and mentorship.
- Interns received their first stipend.
- An internship newsletter has been drafted, and soon will be published.

### *Challenges of the internship program include:*

- The design currently targets seniors and graduating seniors, which limits a majority of students in accepting assignments outside Monrovia, due to unfulfilled commitments on their campuses.
- A majority of interns lacked interview and other basic skills, which resulted in not being placed in various sites.

*Future plans for the internship program include:*

- A two-day capacity building workshop.
- Development of an internship yearbook.
- Establishment of an internship club.
- A “Job Fair” for the closing ceremony.



**Nathaline Weah, intern in FED's Finance Department**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING**

### *Training and Capacity Building*

The SME modules are in fulfillment of the environmental compliance monitoring, which includes the requirement that businesses are exposed to cleaner production practice.

### *Compliance Monitoring of IFSM Training and PPR Vaccine in Bong and Nimba counties*

The monitoring for compliance was in conformation of best management practices as it relates to awareness on forest conservation, land management, control on wetlands, as well as the increased use of integrated pest management. Other aspects for consideration include soil fertility management, incorporating issues that relate to the causes of infertility. This encompasses shortage of manure, tillage practices, continuously cropping the same land, limited crop rotation, indiscriminate cutting of trees, burning of crop residues, and bush fires. Compliance was reached on verification of the module content for the conveyance of best practices. Farmers learned erosion control, planting formation, preparation of cassava stem against pest and diseases, as well as managing cassava mosaic treatment without chemicals.

### *PPR Vaccination Compliance Monitoring*

The 2012 National Peste des Pestits Ruminants (PPR) vaccination campaign is now progressing in Bong, Lofa, and Nimba counties with the goal of protecting goats and sheep from the goat plague disease. Any generated waste has been stored at BRAC local offices in the counties. Needles, syringes, and empty dilutants have been incinerated, and vials have been burned.

### *Other Activities*

The finalization of the Johnsonville Women Agricultural Water Management arrangement was submitted for review. FED will provide water control structures to these rehabilitation sites, while the issue of land ownership must be resolved at the management level.

Review of the Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) for the FED goat value chain interventions with amendments, was submitted to USAID for approval.

### *Planned Activities:*

- Water quality monitoring for water wells in the FED projects will begin.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

During the month of September 2012, the M&E team was involved with the following activities:

- External DQA by L-MEP.
- FED internal DQA in the remaining two counties not covered by LMEP DQA.
- On-going collection, compilation, verification, and entry of program data.
- On-going follow-ups with county M&E coordinators on respective county-level activities.
- GIS demonstration site measurements in the counties.
- New staff training on M&E.

### *FED External DQA*

The external DQA was conducted by the USAID contracted group L-MEP, to assess the FED M&E system. The M&E staff worked alongside the L-MEP team as they started the process at the Monrovia office with a desk review of program documents, data collection process, and procedures as well as reviewing files and data storage methods. The L-MEP DQA process extended into two of the FED program counties (Nimba and Bong) and continued with a desk review, interviews with those directly involved with data collection, and site visits. The external DQA process started on August 13, 2012. It is now in its final stages and should be finalized on October 1, 2012.

### *FED Internal Data Quality Assessment for Grand Bassa and Lofa counties*

Based on the initial findings from the L-MEP DQA in Nimba and Bong counties, and in consultation with the technical program coordinator, the two M&E officers from the Monrovia office began a FED internal DQA from September 6-8, 2012, in Grand Bassa County, and from September 18-23, 2012, in Lofa County. The M&E officers were tasked with conducting a routine internal DQA, in line with the L-MAP process, in the two offices.

As part of the internal DQA, the M&E officers met with the county team, which included the county manager, M&E coordinator, and extension officers and informed them of the purpose of the DQA. The specific mandate for both counties was to:

- Meet with the county team.
- Meet separately with the county manager, extension officers, and M&E coordinator.
- Revise the M&E data collection process.
- Review files and process of documentation.
- Cross-check data for consistency.
- Document and rectify gaps in the county M&E system when necessary.
- Conduct field visits to rice and cassava demonstration sites for spot-checks.
- Cross check data for ED training.
- Work with the M&E coordinator in the field office to replicate data protocols to be consistent with the Monrovia office in program counties.
- Document and brief county team on findings and initiate action points and next steps.

The overall goal of the routine internal DQA within Grand Bassa and Lofa counties was to document the existing strengths and weaknesses and most importantly take appropriate corrective actions in line with USAID data-quality procedures for the weak areas.

The internal DQA report details the findings, action points, or next steps to be taken and specific recommendations. It will be combined with the L-MEP DQA report once it is finalized, in order to guide necessary changes to the M&E system.

#### *Collection, Compilation, Verification, and Entry of Program Sites*

The M&E team collected data from the counties for activities for verification, compilation, and entry in TAMIS. This process was done in coordination with the field M&E coordinators who were monitoring and collecting data for the activities.

During September, M&E officers made regular follow ups with county M&E coordinators who were engaged with activities at their respective counties. Plot measurement and labeling consumed most of the time for the M&E coordinators. To date, a final report on the total plot measurement in all six counties is being finalized.

#### *GIS activities*

During the month of September, the M&E/GIS officer worked with the M&E coordinators in the field, and extension officers to train staff on GIS. This was followed by how to measure surface areas of demonstration sites, in addition to conducting plot labeling in Montserrado, Margibi, Bong, Lofa, and Grand Bassa counties, using GPS devices.

Five county demonstration site surface area measurements were completed and are as follows:

#### **Montserrado County Demonstration Sites**

<b>Towns/Village</b>	<b>No. of Hectare</b>	<b>Value Chain</b>
Cleans Town	0.6	Vegetables
Fahn Youah	0.6	Vegetables
Gbe gbemah	0.4	Vegetables
Mount Barclay	0.3	Vegetables
Kaynmee Town	0.5	Vegetables
Kpor Town	0.2	Vegetables

**Margibi County Demonstration Sites**

<b>Towns/Village</b>	<b>No. of Hectare</b>	<b>Value Chain</b>
Nyankanta	0.2	Vegetables
Nyankanta	0.3	Vegetables
Nyankanta	0.2	Vegetables
Kakata	1	Vegetables
Whorhn	0.1	Vegetables
Air Town	0.6	Vegetables
Yarnwuelleh	1.2	Vegetables

**Bong County Demonstration Sites**

<b>Towns/Village</b>	<b>No. of Hectare</b>	<b>Value Chain</b>
Gbarnga	0.7	Cassava
Duaita	0.7	Lowland Rice
Donfah	0.8	Lowland Rice
Zeansue	0.7	Lowland Rice
Maimu	0.7	Lowland Rice
Totota	0.7	Lowland Rice
Gbarnsue	1	Cassava
Whyee	1.3	Cassava
Naii	0.7	Cassava
Warta	1	Cassava

**Grand Bassa County Demonstration Sites**

<b>Towns/Village</b>	<b>No. of Hectare</b>	<b>Value Chain</b>
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Blayegbah	0.4	Lowland Rice
Compound 2	0.8	Cassava
Gadour Town	0.4	Lowland Rice
Koutar Town	0.9	Lowland Rice
Kpelleh Town	0.4	Lowland Rice
Yarmah Town	0.5	Lowland Rice
Quepue town	0.4	Cassava
Moncray town	0.4	Cassava
Neopreh town	0.4	Cassava
Wheagblenkon	0.9	Cassava

#### **Nimba County Demonstration Sites**

<b>Towns/Village</b>	<b>No. of Hectare</b>	<b>Value Chain</b>
Nyempa	0.6	Lowland Rice
Kpaglay	0.8	Lowland Rice
Payee	0.6	Lowland Rice
Whynor	0.8	Lowland Rice
Karnwee	0.7	Lowland Rice
Neingbain	0.8	Upland Rice
New Gbeasilla	0.7	Upland Rice
Venn Town	0.5	Cassava
Zoe-luapa	0.6	Cassava
Tonglaywin	0.4	Cassava
Bahn	0.4	Cassava
Ganta	0.4	Cassava

Ganta	0.4	Cassava
Dounpa	0.9	Cassava
Dounpa	2.1	Lowland Rice
Dounpa	1.1	Vegetables
Sanniquellie	0.7	Lowland Rice
Boweh	0.5	Lowland Rice

### *New Staff Training*

During the month of September, the M&E Monrovia team briefed the four new ED officers, who will be based in the field offices, on FED M&E practices. This training module was piloted with these new staff members and with small adjustments, will be rolled out to all new staff in the future as part of their introductory orientation.

In addition, the M&E team is hosting a FED intern in the department until mid -November. She took part in the new staff training on M&E, and already has been part of the internal DQA exercise in Lofa County. During September, she assisted with data entry and took part in a training series on digital data collection.

### *Snap Shot on Indicators*

*\*The reporting of these project indicators is the M&E team's best estimation at the time of deadline. As a result of the recent DQA process, double counting of individuals was identified within these indicators, and the M&E team is now undertaking a cleanup of the training data. The process is still ongoing at this time and therefore FED expects that these numbers will be adjusted down once that process has been completed and finalized for the upcoming annual report. In addition, project targets are being revisited and FED expects that these may change for the quarterly report.*

No.	Indicator	TARGET		Cumulative Actual (Annual)
		LOP	FY	
			2012	
3.1.1	Number of individuals who have received USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	6,000	300	3,220
3.1.2	Number of individuals, organizations, and institutions that have received training of a technical nature	15,000	700	420
3.2.1	Number of individuals that have received training on management or leadership	1,000	200	450

## Market Development Fund

### FED Activity Table – APPROVED and LIVE ACTIVITIES

Activity Name	Numb	Description	Start Date	End Date	Approx. Value (USD)	Location (county, district)	Activity Status
<b>COMPONENT 1</b>							
Rice Production and Processing Demonstration	C1-MDF-01	26 sites/partnerships with farmer associations in training by module (site selection, rice variety selection, land preparation, fertilizer application, seedling production, transplanting, and irrigation, weeding, harvesting, and post-harvest). In addition, labor-saving production technologies (rotary weeders, power tillers) will be demonstrated.	5/21/12	10/31/12		Lofa, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Bong	Ongoing
Water Well Drilling	C1-MDF-02	Assess local conditions for the installation of tube wells, including a technique that increases the recharge rates of existing shallow wells, and train the FED project technical trainer and workers from two local enterprises in the manual installation of tube wells.	5/24/12	08/31/12		Bong, Montserrado, Nimba, Margibi	Ongoing
Training and Demonstrations on Integrated Soil Fertility Management/ISFM	C1-MDF-06	Train 1,000 farmers on 22 FED cassava demonstration sites, upland rice out growers, members of three cooperatives, 20 extension staff, and 12 agro-dealers. The total ISFM demonstration coverage is 150 hectares covering all FED sites	09/24/12	11/30/12		Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Nimba	Ongoing

		(60x50) per plot.					
Capacity building for the safe use of authorized agro-chemicals in Bong and Lofa counties	C1-MDF-08	Collaborate with input dealers in organizing sensitization, awareness creation, and demonstrations for the safe use of authorized agro-chemical and equipment. Conduct two demonstrations of innovative tools, inputs (fertilizer, chemicals, etc.) in Lofa and Bong counties.	7/24/12	8/15/12		Lofa, Bong	Completed
Arjay Farms Out grower Expansion	C1-MDF-11	Work with Arjay Farms in expanding and training additional out grower staff. In addition, provide Arjay Farms with the necessary tools and training in order to process the significant increase in rice seed.	6/18/12	10/15/13		Montserrado	Ongoing
Vegetable Seedling Special Study	C1-MDF-13	Identify approximately 30 independent vegetable seedling producers in the focus counties (five per county). Then conduct a mini-survey with 30 producers to collect data on each production sites' setup and location, scope of seedling production and sales, inputs and costs for production, as well as challenges in producing and selling vegetable seedlings. Based on the survey, determine the best candidates to be trained as commercial vegetable seedling producers through the FED Vegetable Seedling Program.	6/5/12	6/30/12		Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Nimba, Montserrado, Margibi	Completed
Food Consumption Patterns & Expenditure Among	C1-MDF-14	A mini survey of a sub-sample of the FED Baseline Survey of households conducted between	5/21/12	6/29/12		Montserrado, Margibi	Completed

Peri-Urban Farmers (FCPE) Special Study		February and May 2012. The baseline sampled approximately 85 households involved with FED in the peri-urban areas of Margibi and Montserrado counties. The specific objective of this survey is to characterize the following: types of food consumed (dietary variety) and types of food sources by household head type, main livelihood of household head and household size; estimate average of household food expenditure and share of different food types in total food; and consumption shocks and coping strategies.					
Soy Flour Compost Distribution	C1-MDF-15	Collaborate with OICI on the transfer of 485 MT of spoiled soy flour that was imported by OICI, but is unfit for either human or animal consumption. FED will work with local partners on using the soy flour for compost on FED and partner sites.	7/9/12	10/31/12		Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Margibi, Montserrado, Nimba	Ongoing
Completion of National Peste des Petits Ruminant (PPR) Vaccination Campaign	C1-MDF-18	Assist the MoA with effective completion of the national PPR vaccination campaigns at the county level. Significant EU/AU/IBAR provided vaccines remain unused due to closure of the program.	7/2/12	10/15/12		Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Margibi, Montserrado, Nimba	Ongoing
Vetiver Expansion Program	C1-MDF-20	Develop plant materials that are effective at stopping soil erosion. Establish small nurseries of Vetiver at the county offices to be eventually planted out at	6/29/12	10/31/12		Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Montserrado, Nimba	Ongoing

		demonstration sites to assist with soil erosion.					
Cassava Demo Site Training and Cultivation – Phase I	C1-MDF-21	22 sites/partnerships with farmer associations to increase farmers' capacity to increase the production of cassava, expand network of out-grower farmers in cassava, and build sustainable and profitable cassava farming operations for cassava farmers in the target counties.	6/18/12	10/31/12		Lofa, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Bong	Ongoing
Phase I, Youth Nutrition Program	C1-MDF-22	Build demonstration site to increase overall nutrition at orphanage. Train orphanage leaders and children in vegetable farming and input supplies and provide technical assistance on goat health.	6/29/12	12/31/12		Montserrado	Ongoing
Vegetable seedling production and sales	C1-MDF-24	Motivate farmers to invest in vegetable production by training seedling producers in use and promotion of improved inputs and on how to provide technical information services to farmers.	8/15/12	10/01/12		Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Margibi, Montserrado, Nimba	Ongoing
Johnsonville Women Agriculture Project	C1-MDF-25	Improve the water management system through the construction of peripheral canals to collect and control water from the catchment areas and the construction of peripheral bunds.	7/23/12	10/22/12		Montserrado	Ongoing
Comprehensive Food Security and Nutrition Survey (CFSNS)	C1-MDF-26	Partner with the government of Liberia on the 2012 CFSNS goals to provide baseline food security and nutrition information that will underpin the measurement of progress in the implementation of	7/16/12	12/14/12		Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Margibi, Montserrado, Nimba	Ongoing

		PRS II and UNDAF 2013-17. The main objective is to ensure availability of timely and appropriate high-quality food security and nutrition data to inform policy and programming.					
One-day technical consultative workshop on livestock interventions in Liberia	C1-MDF-29	Assist the MoA in achieving a sound understanding of development interventions in the livestock sector by arranging a meeting to identify donor funded interventions currently under implementation in the livestock sector and facilitating relationship building among participating organizations.	9/6/12	9/6/12		Montserrado	Completed
Soy Flour Compost Production Training	C1-TRN-30	Collaborate with Sangay Farm based on their knowledge and experience in compost production to train lead cassava farmers from Bong, Nimba, Grand Bassa, and Lofa counties in compost production and its application.	8/16/12	8/30/12		Bong, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Lofa	Completed
T-shirt for cassava, up and lowlands rice, and vegetable demonstration trainees	C1-MDF-31	Increase awareness of FED programs in targeted communities by production of a FED T-shirt to be distributed to those who are participating in FED activities.	8/21/12	9/30/12		Bong, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Lofa	Ongoing
Training in treadle pump manufacturing and tube well installation	C1-MDF-32	Train metal workers and other artisans in the production and installation of treadle irrigation pumps and tube wells, which are relatively low cost and highly-productive irrigation equipment.	8/16/12	2/23/13		Lofa, Margibi, Nimba	Ongoing
Vegetable and Cassava Processing	C1-MDF-34	Train local manufacturers in producing low-cost, efficient	9/24/12	12/15/12		Montserrado, Bong	Ongoing

		cassava and vegetable processing equipment. Provide portable cassava mill and other processing equipment allowing for easy transportation from one location to another.					
<b>COMPONENT 2</b>							
Business Management Skills Training	C2-TRN-01	Stimulate agri-business growth by conducting a business-management training that will help attendees to identify their business skill strengths and weakness, develop a stronger business plan, learn about the various components of managing a successful agri-business, and present an action plan to develop and manage a profitable agriculture business.	5/23/12	6/8/12		Grand Bassa, Montserrado, Nimba	Completed
Formation of National Cassava Sector Coordinating Committee	C2-MDF-02	Facilitate the establishment of a sustainable system for coordination, advocacy, and information dissemination within the cassava sector as agreed in the National Cassava Sector Strategy document.	6/1/12	9/30/12		Lofa, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Bong	Ongoing
Enterprise Development Pilot Program	C2-TRN-03	Prepare various producer groups in Nimba County to meet the minimum standard requirements as business associations (business registration and establishing bank accounts as well as putting in place a good financial system) through a training workshop.	7/2/12	10/31/12		Nimba	Completed
Computer literacy training for From	C2-TRN-04	Provide basic computer training to ten community members in the	7/12/12	9/12/12		Nimba	Completed



God to Man Farmers Association		village of Doumpa. The computer training will enhance the capacity of the farmers' association to efficiently manage the association.					
Stakeholder Profiles	C2-MDF-05	Provide baseline and profile data on lead producers, agro-input dealers, processors, transport and logistics companies, and buyers (including markets) that support the four value chains: rice, cassava, vegetables, and goats in Bong, Lofa, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Montserrado, and Margibi counties.	8/6/12	9/30/12		Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Margibi, Montserrado, Nimba	Ongoing
Business Skills Training for SMEs	C2-TRN-06	To stimulate the Agriculture sector, FED will work with approximately 25 participants representing 12 SMEs on the following: key considerations when writing a business plan, applying a simple process to write a business plan effectively, coordination of various company departments and resources in the process of writing the business plan, and drafting of a business plan document.	7/18/12	9/7/12		Bong	Completed
Mentorship program for Business Plan Development for SMEs	C2-TRN-07	Market Research training, telephone follow-ups with various groups, market analysis, and development of marketing plan training, development of production and operational plan training, development of financial plan training, and finalization of each partner's business plan.	7/25/12	10/31/12		Bong, Montserrado	Completed

Welekamah Farmer Based Organization	C2-TRN-08	Build the capacity of Welekamah to operate more effectively as a business through a training workshop which will address the topics of customer service, selling techniques, and farming as a business.	1/4/12	1/6/12		Bong	Completed
Enterprise Development Pilot Plan And Gender Concept	C2-TRN-10	Prepare various producer groups in Grand Bassa County to meet the minimum standard requirements as business associations (business registration and establishing bank accounts as well as putting in place a good financial system) through a training workshop that also addresses problems and constraints that female members face and stresses the importance and benefits of addressing those problems.	8/7/12	8/11/12		Grand Bassa	Completed
<b>COMPONENT 3</b>							
Agro-Business Internship Program	C3-MDF-01	Partner with universities and vocation schools in establishing a three-month internship program for selected students and place them in agro-business organizations.	6/1/12	11/30/12		Montserrado, Nimba	Ongoing
Booker T. Washington Institute (BWI): Building a Center of Excellence	C3-MDF-04	BWI lacks the resources and training to be a Center of Excellence for Liberia. Curriculum has not been reviewed nor improved for several decades. Staff need to be re-trained, and infrastructure for the library and Department of Agriculture is poor,	6/15/12	9/30/12		Margibi	Ongoing

		<p>with inadequate facilities and equipment for teachers and students. FED will work with BWI on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Upgrade BWI to become a Center of Excellence</li> <li>2) Upgrade curricula and equipment for BWI's Department of Agriculture.</li> <li>3) Create an environment conducive to learning and to the pursuit of excellence in agriculture.</li> </ol>					
FED World Food Day Participation - Child Art Competition	C3-MDF-06	<p>Meaningfully involve youth in agriculture and business development in order to prepare them to participate more fully in economic development and food security. This will be done through partnership with Child Art to arrange an art competition among school children on the theme of World Food Day, culminating in a final awarding ceremony at the World Food Day event being organized by the MoA.</p>	9/10/12	12/15/12		Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Margibi, Montserrado, Nimba	Ongoing

## Project Management and Administration

### Administration and Logistics

#### *Achievements*

During the month of September, FED continued to provide effective administration and logistical support to program and administrative staff, while assuring contract compliance. The highlight of September included hiring four ED assistants.

#### Staff Recruitment, LTТА:

- Allen Paulono, Enterprise Development Assistant (Lofa County)
- Watson Yeanue, Enterprise Development Assistant (Nimba County)
- Abednego Mehn, Enterprise Development Assistant (Bong County)
- Jonathan Jones, Enterprise Development Assistant (Grand Bassa County)

#### *Ongoing Recruitment:*

- Recruitment is currently ongoing for the following positions:
  - i) Drivers
  - ii) Goat Officer
  - iii) Nutritionist

#### *Other activities:*

- Staff are preparing for the beginning of the performance review for FY 2012, and objective setting for the upcoming year.

The Logistic Department carried out the following activities for the month of September 2012:

- The construction of a car park and a palava hut was completed on September 13, 2012.
- Completed registration of plates and road user documents for all six pick-ups at the Ministry of Transportation and the Liberia National Police on September 20, 2012, and received and cleared six pick-ups from the Port of Monrovia on September 25, 2012.
- Conducted a driver test to select seven drivers on September 20, and 25, 2012.

During the month of September, FED mounted the IT deployment of VSAT, server, computers, and printers to the FED field office in Nimba County, as well as the BWI campus in Kakata, Margibi County. Three major buildings on the BWI campus, including Science and Technology, which contains the Department of Agriculture, Admissions, and the library are now benefiting from internet services. Students are able to share resources on their network, improving their learning skills through use of the system.

## FED STTAs Track Table - September 2012

were approved in September:

Name	Position	Partner	Dates	Summary
Kwanku Ageymang (STTA)	Livestock Advisor	DAI	September 28-October 21, 2012	Work with the MoA and stakeholders to draft national policy guidelines governing both livestock research and extension together with guidelines governing the importation of livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, swine, and poultry) into Liberia.
Shahram Ahmadzadegan (STTA)	Acting MDF and M&E Manager	DAI	September 6-November 2, 2012	Provide oversight of the MDF and team. Oversee release of all RFPs, selection of vendors, procurement process, and MDF reporting.
Kathleen Kurz (STTA)	Nutrition Specialist	DAI	September 8-28, 2012	Worked on FED's nutrition inputs into the annual work plan and followed up with other nutrition related tasks.
Erika Dunmire (STTA)	M&E Specialist	DAI	September 8-28, 2012	M&E support and inputs into Year 2-3 PMP and M&E component of work plan.
Susan van Keulen-Cantella (STTA)	Agribusiness Specialist	IFDC	September 10-14, 2012	Input into input supply component of work plan and held meetings with FED senior management
Carl Motsenbocker (STTA)	Horticulture Specialist	LSU	September 8-22, 2012	Inputs into work plan components 1 and 3 and training of peri-urban staff.
Rebecca Seawall	Gender Specialist	CEDPA	September 16-29, 2012	Inputs into gender integration sections of work plan. Follow-up gender work will also be conducted.
Eric Nzokou (STTA)	Manufacturing Trainer	Winrock	August 13-November 9, 2012	Train one of the FED project manufacturer trainers and at least two local metal workshops in the manufacturing of the gas-fired forced-air dryer and the cassava fiber-discharge mill. He will also test and assess the IITA mobile cassava grater.
Matt Curtis (STTA)	Soil Fertility STTA	DAI	August 20-September 5, 2012	Soil testing training.

Agatha Johnson (STTA)	SME Training Specialist	DAI	May-December 2012	Implement a series of business services trainings for the small business association participants working in all of the FED value chains.
Fofana Bidjokazo (STTA)	ISFM and UDP Specialist	IFDC	May –September 2012	Provide technical support for the implementation of ISFM and UDP best practices.
Constant Dangbegnon (STTA)	NRM Extension Advisor STTA	IFDC	May-September 2012	Work on integrating extension training activities into all of FED's input supply system improvement interventions.
Jacelyn Carleson (MTTA)	ICT Specialist	DAI	June 11-November 30, 2012	Develop and support FED's ICT initiatives.
Dermot Cassidy	Pest Management Specialist	Winrock	September-November 2012	Pest management oversight.
<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Partner</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Summary</b>
Charles Weschler	Operations Specialist	DAI	September 10-October 10, 2012	Oversee all finance, operations, administration, HR, and IT activities while DCOP is on leave.
Alia Afshar-Gandhi	Project Team Leader	DAI	September 8-22, 2012	Assist with development and preparation of FED's Year 2-3 work plan.
Jessica Benton Cooney (MTTA)	Communications Specialist	DAI	August 18-December 18, 2012	Strategic communications and training support.

## APPENDIX

### National PPR Vaccination Campaign Targeted Liberian Goats and Sheep in a FED-led Collaborative Effort

Goats are a core household asset in providing food and income for Liberian families. Therefore, the 2012 National Peste des Pestis Ruminants (PPR) vaccination campaign launched in September in a collaborative effort of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), BRAC, USDA Land O'Lakes, Samaritan's Purse, and the USAID FED project proved to be vital in protecting the estimated 220,000 goats in Liberia. The vaccine was administered across Lofa, Bong, Nimba, Montserrado, Grand Bassa, and Margibi counties, targeting over 100,000 sheep and goats, and affecting 226,836 rural households.

The campaign was a priority initiative of the MoA, and took almost four weeks to complete. Failure to vaccinate against PPR would have put the entire national herd of sheep and goats in Liberia at risk. This would have proven devastating given that goats are valuable assets that enhance nutritional and economic status in Liberia, especially for women who raise goats for home consumption and market sale. The PPR vaccine has the ability to prevent infection and further spreading of the disease, which is characterized with high morbidity and mortality rates.



“PPR is the most damaging disease in sheep and goat populations in Africa,” said Dennis B. McCarthy, FED’s goat value chain specialist. “The disease is highly contagious and is rapidly fatal resulting in up to 90% herd loss. PPR or Goat Plague causes severe economic losses for pastoralist and agro-pastoralist households by depleting their ability to cope and dramatically reducing food security.”

*Farmers who have been restocked with goats lost in Liberia's civil war, Lofa County.*

The vaccine was administered by 200 private animal health promoters, who received training prior to the campaign in order to ensure it was dispensed properly and safely, and materials were disposed of in an environmentally responsible way.

### MoA Launches Collaborative Effort to Improve National Livestock Sector

In collaboration with the MoA and Land O'Lakes, FED hosted a one-day National Livestock Consultative workshop on September 6, 2012, at the Corina Hotel, Sinkor, Monrovia. International partners at the event included USAID, European Union, BRAC Liberia, Samaritan Purse, FAO, CARE-Liberia, Vets without Border, German Agro Action, and IFAD among others. The objective of the technical meeting was to identify donor-funded interventions currently under implementation in the livestock sector and facilitate relationship building among participating organizations. In order to effectively manage the development of the National Livestock Sector, the MoA must understand what is on-going in the sector on a national level. Currently, the MoA is building its capacity and expertise in understanding all the development interventions on-going in the livestock sector across the country. Given the recent increase in the scale and scope of donor-funded livestock interventions in the country, the MoA needs to know who is doing what in this sector, and subsequently update its records and allow effective oversight and design.

The expected outcome of this meeting is to identify the increased knowledge among the MoA livestock team of the scale and scope of donor-funded livestock interventions in Liberia and assist livestock sector participants to strengthen their professional network.

Stakeholders in the livestock sector in Liberia have been challenged to contribute their expertise toward the transformation of the sector. Speaking on September 6, 2012, at the start of a one-day technical consultative workshop for livestock intervention in Liberia, Acting Agriculture Minister, Sizi Zubah, said that the intervention signifies the importance attached to the sector. He also pointed out that the overall improvement of the livestock sector in Liberia largely depends upon the valuable technical expertise of all stockholders within the sector. “The livestock sector is in need of the contributions of experts for its improvement,” he said.

Also speaking at the workshop, the National Coordinator of the Livestock Division, Seklau Wiles reminded breeders of sheep and goats across the country to take advantage of the ongoing 2012 National Livestock Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) vaccination campaign in the counties of Nimba, Bong, Lofa, Margibi, Grand Bassa, and Montserrado.

“The Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with BRAC-Liberia and USAID/FED launched a campaign to vaccinate sheep and goats in Liberia, which officially started on September 5 in the counties free of charge,” said Wiles.

Wiles disclosed an urgent need for training of animal breeders across the country in order to avoid high mortality among the livestock. She also recommended the establishment of a credit system for animal breeders, enabling them to build durable facilities for their animals.

Representatives of the international partners in the livestock sector made presentations on the various roles they are playing in the development and improvement of the sector and how they are providing technical and material support to owners of livestock in Liberia.